NEWSLETTER

ARBORETA & BOTANIC GARDENS

prepared by the public services division

June 8, 1973

PUBLIC SERVICES DIVISION

Department publications are very much in demand. Since last March approximately 4,000 Poisonous Plant brochures have been distributed in response to requests from county school districts, libraries, colleges, medical centers, and the public. The public has accounted for a similar number of our Vegetable Gardening brochures in the same period. As the fire season approaches we are getting an increasing number of requests for our Fire Retardant Plants brochure which is soon to be re-issued in a revised edition.

Note to proponents of women's lib: According to the results of a recent exam for as-needed tour guides, coincidentally scored by men, two women will soon be serving in that capacity at the Arboretum.

The summer school field trip program will be in operation again this year although somewhat curtailed because of a shortage in staff and volunteer field leaders.

ARBORETUM DIVISION

Completion of the Information Center is expected shortly after the end of the month.

The Meadowbrook sprinkler system is approximately one third complete, all bridges are in place and pathways and plantings are the next order of business.

Be sure and set aside July 28 for the department picnic which will be held at Monrovia Nursery this year. This is a family affair and there are going to be innovations guaranteed to please everyone. Your social committee representative has complete details and advanced reservations can be made through them.

ARBORETUM DIVISION (CONTINUED)

Baldwin Avenue is scheduled for improvement which will include the widening and installation of islands between Huntington Drive and Baldwin Avenue. A side walk will be put along the west side of Baldwin Avenue and other safety measures will be included in the project. Construction is to begin about the middle of June.

RESEARCH DIVISION

A new pressure injector has been developed by the Elm Research Institute, Waldwick, New Jersey for effective control of Dutch elm disease. Prompt injection of the new U.S.-approved Benlate fungicide can save our infected elms. So far, the Dutch elm disease has not spread to California.

The Model 102 Pressure Injector provides a fast, easy and effective means of injecting the fungicide into trees. The pressure injector puts up to 10 gallons of fungicide solution into the tree in a matter of minutes. It consists of a pump-operated, 2 gallon pressure tank and harness with ten or more inter-connected injector outlets. The harness encircles the tree trunk while the fungicide solution is pumped into the tree at 30 lbs. pressure for fast absorption and immediate effectiveness. We recently purchased the injector, and are planning to use it for Armillaria root rot control on oaks. Benlate fungicide is very effective against Dutch elm disease and many other diseases such as powdery mildews, rusts and root rots, but unfortunately Benlate is entirely noneffective against Armillaria root rot. As a matter of fact, Benlate is routinely incorporated into culture medium for isolation of Armillaria mellea for preventing contamination of other fast-growing fungi.

The effective fungicide against Armillaria in our

RESEARCH DIVISION (CONTINUED)

laboratory test is cycloheximide, commercially known as Actidione. Some field tests will be carried out for Armillaria control using the pressure injector this summer. A few oak trees in Huntington Library will be tested first by James Doty for lethal dosage level. With this information in hand, further tests will then be tried for practical control.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

All employees should refer to Departmental Instruction #13 regarding the reporting of change of name, address, and/or telephone number immediately to your immediate supervisor and the personnel office within 24 hours after such a change. Thank you for your cooperation in this important matter.

Welcome back to our Accountant, Patrice Jackler after her absence of almost 3 months.

Please refer to the latest issue of the Digest for health insurance premium changes effective September 1, 1973.

SOUTH COAST DIVISION

The South Bay Bromeliad Associates generously donated to the Foundation a greenhouse for public display of bromeliads. We thank them for this addition to the garden.

Preparations for the annual Fiesta de Flores (June 22-24) are nearing completion. We anticipate a record crowd this year, as well as some very good exhibits and an outstanding "Carnival of Flowers" show by the Costa Verde District Garden Clubs. You are invited to visit us and enjoy this special event.

We say thank you and farewell to the Manpower Development and Training Act class and their instructors. Their contributions to our facility are much appreciated.

"Old gardeners never die, they just spade away." And we have been doing a lot of ground preparation for our new ground cover

SOUTH COAST DIVISION (CONTINUED)

demonstration section, which reduces the size of Gene's big lawn.

Birds observed on the May walk included fox and song sparrows, Allen's, Anna's, and Costa's hummingbirds.

Trees and shrubs in flower include: Schotia brachypetala, Spartium junceum, Clarkia unguiculata, Romneya Coulteri (Magilija Poppy), Raphiolepis indica (India hawthorn), Robinia hispida, Agave vilmoriniana, Cistus symphytifolius.

DESCANSO DIVISION

Mark Anthony reports that the roses are still in fine bloom for the public walk through the rose garden which he and George Lewis will lead on June 10.

The concert under the oaks presented by the Glendale Community College Orchestra on Sunday afternoon, May 27, was well attended as was the art show presented the past two weekends. The Glendale orchestra is scheduled for a repeat performance on July 22.

The giant Bauhinia donated by the Highway Department is now in spectacular full bloom in the front lawn.

EDUCATION DIVISION

Adult workshops have hit a new high this semester. For the 16 courses at the three gardens 262 certificates of completion have been awarded so far.

Lydia Williams staged three homecoming events for her Home Gardening classes and over 300 students attended. Elaborate refreshments were brought and served by the current students. Special speakers generated new enthusiasm-Patricia Warren on the history of Descanso Gardens, Caro Christianson on fuschias at South Coast Botanic Garden, and Dr. Enari on poisonous plants in California gardens. Three new garden clubs have been organized by students with a continuing interest. They are Share Croppers I and II and a new chapter of the

EDUCATION DIVISION (CONTINUED)

Fuschia Society.

The Vegetable Gardening workshop at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum is in full production despite several rainy-day holdbacks on planting. Four varieties of beans and three of squashes are producing. Several varieties of radishes, lettuces, and red chard have also furnished good harvests. Strawberries, tomatoes and cucumbers are rapidly setting fruit. Students filter in through the weeks to give additional care to the garden and reap the results. Plots show a lot of open spaces but that is because all those students interviewed have gardens at home, and that is what the whole course is about!

The Plant Science Library reports a total of 488 titles on long-term loan to staff members at our three facilities. Of this number only 7 titles are missing, a rather good record for a busy circulation. Cornelia Kelderman of Las Voluntarias is giving two mornings a week with Ruth Taylor restoring leather bindings on some of our rare books. Both ladies had lessons at Huntington Library to acquire the necessary skills.

The last of the spring classes come to a close June 9 when the Vegetable Gardening class in Youth Education ends. All lettuce and radishes have been harvested; now students are taking home beans, swiss chard, beets, and carrots.

Summer registration at LASCA closed quickly in ten days; registration at South Coast and Descanso closed shortly thereafter.

Two new classes this summer at LASCA are Experimenting with Plants and Bird Study. Experimenting with Plants will be taught by Las Voluntarias member Marilyn Llewellyn, a credentialed teacher. Mrs. Llewellyn's class will run experiments to study the characteristics of non-vascular and vascular plants.

Bird Study will be taught by Susan Cox, a student in Aviary Science at UC Davis.

A new course at South Coast this summer will be Stream Ecology. The students in this class will study the relationship of the various life forms connected with the stream.

The Three staff Education Assistants will be aided by three college students and three volunteers in teaching the 475 students registered for the summer workshops.